

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 250952Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7875
INFO AMCONHIL NALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV ELAB BG
SUBJECT: POLITICIANS GIVEN SIXTY DAYS TO DECLARE ASSETS; BDG TO
REVIEW PAY SCALES

REFS: A. 77 DACCA 6825(NOTAL) B. 77 DACCA 7480

1. THE BDG JANUARY 24 MADE TWO SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS, BOTH OF WHICH CONCERNED SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUES IN DACCA. ONE WAS A PRESS NOTE ANNOUNCING THAT IN LINE WITH THE IMPROPER ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY REGULATION ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 28 (REF A), ALL POLITICIANS HOLDING PUBLIC OFFICE SINCE BANGLADESH INDEPENDENCE WOULD HAVE SIXTY DAYS FROM JANUARY 25 TO SUBMIT THEIR PROPERTY STATEMENTS. FAILURE TO RESPOND COULD XJING ANSPENALTY OF IMPRISONMENT FOR UP TO TWO YEARS AND DISQUALIFICATION FROM PUBLIC OFFICE FOR FIVE TO SEVEN YEARS.

2. THE OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THAT A COUNCIL COMMITTEE
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ON PAY AND SERVICES WOULD INVESTIGATE "ANOMALIES" IN THE NATIONAL PAY SCALES PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER (REF B). MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE WERE NOT ANNOUNCED, BUT DECISIONS OF THE COUCIL COMMITTEE COULD BE BROUGHT BEFORE AN APPELLATE COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF VICE PRESIDENT SATTAR AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORS KAZI ANWARUL HAQUE, JAMALUDDIN AHMED, B.M. ABBAS AND DR. .Q.M. BADRUDDOZZA CHOUDHURY.

3. COMMENT: THE ATTEMPT TO FORCE PREVIOUS OFFICE HOLDERS TO DECLARE ASSETS, AS NOTED REFTTEL, IS SEEN AS AN ATTEMPT BY PRESIDENT ZIA TO HARASS THE AWAMI LEAGUE, THE ONLY PARTY IN POWER BETWEEN 1972 AND 1975. THE ORIGINAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE REGULATION EXACERBATED OLD TENSIONS BETWEEN ZIA AND THE AWAMI LEAGUE AND CAUSED MANY OBSERVERS TO QUESTION ZIA'S POLITICAL WISDOM IN NEEDLESSLY INCURRING THE WRATH OF HIS MAJOR POLITICAL OPPOSITION JUST AS HE IS CONSIDERING SOME TYPE OF RENEWED POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE DECISION TO INVESTIGATE ANOMALIES IN THE NEW PAY SCALE WILL PROBABLY MOLLIFY CERTAIN DISGRUNTLED GROUPS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE. THE DISSATISFACTION WHICH FLARED IN LATE DECEMBER HAS DISSIPATED SOMEWHAT AS THE ISSUE FAILED TO ATTRACT ACTIVE SUPPORT FROM ALL SECTORS OF THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE. NEVERTHELESS, MORALE IS LOW AND IF FEW ADJUSTMENTS ARE GAVEN, THE ISSUE COULD EASILY FLARE AGAIN.
BERGESEN

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Message Attributes

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